

Ms. Winfrey began her public career while in college, where she became a co-anchor. In the years of 1977–1984 Ms. Winfrey was the co-host of “Baltimore is Talking”. In 1984, she took over ABC’s “AM Chicago” where her ratings surpassed the top performer Phil Donahue. Ms. Winfrey then became the performer of her own show where she has become a role model for many. The Oprah Winfrey Show is different from all others because it continues to reinvent itself and continues to make a difference in people’s lives. In 1986 the show became syndicated.

Ms. Winfrey later founded Harpo which is her own production company. Her acclaimed performance in the *Color Purple* in 1985 earned Ms. Winfrey an Academy Award nomination. Ms. Winfrey continues to make endeavors that she believes in.

INTRODUCTION OF THE “CARTER G. WOODSON HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2003”

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Black History Month, I rise today to introduce the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2003, a bill directing the National Park Service (NPS) to take ownership, restore and manage the historic Shaw home of Carter G. Woodson, “the father of Black History.” The bill would authorize the NPS to “preserve, protect and interpret for the benefit, education and inspiration of present and future generations,” the home where Woodson lived from 1915 to 1950. This legislation also authorizes the NPS to rehabilitate adjacent properties on either side of the home to facilitate tourism. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), which Woodson founded, also would be housed on the site, as it was originally. My good friend Senator MARY LANDRIEU (D-LA) will be the sponsor of this legislation in the Senate.

Congress passed my bill, H.R. 3201, the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Study Act, in 2000, to begin the process of making the property at 1538 Ninth Street, NW a national historic site within the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. A NPS study, as mandated by the legislation, is required before the NPS can take control of property. The study determined that the Woodson Home is suitable and feasible for designation as a unit of the park system following the transfer of title from its current owner, the ASALH. The bill I introduce today is necessary in order for the NPS to receive the appropriation for extensive renovation of the site.

I am particularly pleased by the proposed rehabilitation of the entire block that is linked to the legislation I introduce today to rehabilitate the Woodson home. The NPS would work with Shiloh Community Development Corporation, established by Shiloh Baptist Church, which owns almost all of the property on the block of the Woodson home. The Shiloh Corporation would convert the block of homes to senior independent living housing, maintaining the historic facade of the row houses.

As Black History Month comes to a close, we open a new chapter in the story of an educator who is most responsible for the annual recognition of the contributions of black Americans in the nation’s history and culture. I have introduced this legislation to honor Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a distinguished black American and founder of the Association of Negro Life and History, by authorizing the NPS to maintain in perpetuity his home at 1538 Ninth Street, N.W., here in the District of Columbia, as a National Historic Site under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. The significance of this home was recognized in 1976, when it was designated as a National Historic Landmark. I introduce this bill today to assure that the nation’s pride and purpose in celebrating Black History Month are not marred by neglect of the home of the founder of the commemoration and of the study of black history itself.

Dr. Woodson was a distinguished American historian who established African-American history as a discipline and spent a lifetime uncovering the contributions of African-Americans to our nation’s history. He founded and performed his work through the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), which has since been renamed the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH). Among its enduring accomplishments, ASNLH, under Dr. Woodson’s leadership, instituted Negro History Week in 1926, to be observed in February during the week of the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Today, of course, Negro History Week, which was mostly celebrated in segregated schools, like my own here in the District when I was a child, and in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, has gained support and participation throughout the country among people of all backgrounds as Black History Month.

Dr. Woodson, the son of former slaves, earned a Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1912, becoming only the second African-American to receive a doctorate from Harvard after the great W.E.B. DuBois. Woodson’s personal educational achievement was extraordinary in itself, especially for a man who had been denied access to public education in Canton, Virginia, where Woodson was born in 1875. As a result, Dr. Woodson did not begin his formal education until he was 20 years old, after he moved to Huntington, West Virginia, where he received his high school diploma two years later. He then entered Berea College in Kentucky, where he received his bachelor’s degree in 1897. Woodson continued his education at the University of Chicago, where he earned his A.B. and M.A. degrees, and then he got his Ph.D. from Harvard University.

During much of Dr. Woodson’s life, there was widespread ignorance and very little information concerning African-American life and history. With his extensive studies, Woodson almost single-handedly established African-American historiography. Dr. Woodson’s research, literally uncovering black history, helped to educate the American public about the contributions of African-Americans to the nation’s history and culture. Through painstaking scholarship and historical research, his work helped reduce the stereotypes captured in pervasively negative portrayals of black people that have marred our history as a nation. To remedy these stereotypes, Dr. Wood-

son in 1915 founded ASNLH. Through ASNLH, Dr. Woodson dedicated his life to educating the American public about the contributions of black Americans to the nation’s history and culture. This work in bringing history to bear where prejudice and racism had held sway has played an indispensable role in reducing prejudice and making the need for civil rights remedies clear.

To assure publication, under Dr. Woodson’s leadership, ASNLH in 1920 also founded the Associated Publishers, Inc. for the publication of research on African-American history. Dr. Woodson published his seminal work, *The Negro in Our History* (1922), and many others under Associated Publishers, and the publishing company provided an outlet for scholarly works by numerous other black scholars. ASNLH also circulated two periodicals: the *Negro History Bulletin*, designed for mass consumption, and the *Journal of Negro History*, which was primarily directed to the academic community.

Dr. Woodson directed ASNLH’s operations out of his home at 1538 Ninth Street, NW., Washington, DC in the historic Shaw neighborhood. From there, he trained researchers and staff and managed the organization’s budget and fundraising efforts, while at the same time pursuing his own extraordinary discoveries in African-American history. The three-story Victorian style house, built in 1890, served as the headquarters of ASNLH into the early 70’s, well after Dr. Woodson’s death in 1950. In 1976, the house was designated as a National Historic Landmark. However, it has been unoccupied since the early 80’s, and today, it stands boarded up and sorely in need of renovation. The walls inside the house are crumbling, there is termite infestation, water seeps through the roof during heavy rainstorms, and the house also constitutes a fire hazard jeopardizing adjacent buildings. This house that is a priceless American treasure must not be lost.

Mr. Speaker, passage of the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2003, represents a concrete way for the House to commemorate Black History Month, by preserving the home and legacy of its founder, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as Black History Month. As the month draws to a close, I urge my colleagues to join me as we commemorate and honor the achievements of African-Americans throughout our nation’s history.

Black history month, a tradition for seven decades, is celebrated each February in cities and towns across the United States. During this time, we honor and celebrate the contributions African-Americans have made to music, the arts, and academics and we recall the many important milestones in black history. In 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson recognized the need for our country to gain a more complete and informed understanding of African